

Greenwich Nursing & Healthcare Registry, Inc.

Est. 1930

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TESTIMONY BEFORE THE LABOR AND PUBLIC EMPLOYEES COMMITTEE

REGARDING HB-5368

AN ACT CONCERNING HOMEMAKER SERVICES AND HOMEMAKER COMPANION SERVICES AGENCIES.

March 8, 2016

Good afternoon Senator Gomes, Representative Tercyak and other members of the Labor and Public Employees Committee. We are Crystal Ramsey and Kathy Schluensen, managing directors and co-owners of the Greenwich Nursing and Health Care Registry. The Registry was founded in 1930 by the Alumnae Association of Greenwich Hospital School of Nursing. The purpose was to offer work opportunities to Nurses and fill a need for private duty nursing in our community.

We are in opposition to HB-5368 which would effectively eliminate the Registry business model in CT.

Registries at large are much more than a referral source for homemakers and companions, we refer registered nurses, licensed practical nurses and certified nursing assistants. The registry refers its members to clients from pediatrics to geriatrics and the terminally ill in the following venues:

- Hospital
- Nursing homes
- Rehabilitation centers
- Private homes
- Schools
- Camps
- Physician's office
- Assisted living

While some clients need companion and homemaker services many need skilled services. Hospice patients regularly use our service in conjunction with traditional hospice and Visiting Nurse Services (VNS).

End-of-life care may require RN's and LPN's for 24/7 care at home which is not available from the VNS. One patient can utilize all levels of care during the course of an illness.

Many patients require skilled care at home and this is usually rendered by private duty nurses (i.e. tracheotomy, ventilator, wound care, I.V therapy etc.) Insurance companies cover many of these costs but do not aid the patient in finding a nurse. **If registries are eliminated where will patients find these services?**

Registries are on-call 24/7 to refer caregivers that are available, **vetted, licensed, insured** and cost effective.

Our goals is to provide the appropriate care in the setting of the patient's choice and prolong the period of covered expenses as long as possible. For the patient paying out-of-pocket cost is paramount.

Eliminating registries will result in loss of jobs for nurses and nursing aides. The registry model allows caregivers the flexibility of choosing their own schedule and the potential of earning a much higher income.

We support common sense regulations to improve our industry and better protect consumers and nurses. Our members have always carried liability insurance and in recent years have added occupational accident insurance.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We would be pleased to answer any questions.